THE NEGRO FARMER
AND MESSENGER

VOL. 3, NO. 11
JUNE 3, 1916

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE
ALABAMA

A PRIZE CALIFORNIA GIRL: BERNICE HIGBEE

WHOSE $25 PRIZE ORATION WAS "ALABAMA MUST FEED HERSELF"

(SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE FOUR.)

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Published Bi-Weekly in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; especially devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers.

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AND MESSENGER

PUBLISHED EVERY OTHER WEEK.

ISAAC FISHER....Editor and Business Mgr.

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SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1916

MEMBER NATIONAL NEGRO PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Editor's Page

EACH MAN HIS DAY AND HOUR

I have sat in churches in the quiet and reverent stillness of the Sabbath day and watched great audiences of devout men and women as they listened to the words of comfort and consolation which fell from the lips of the ministers of the gospel; and as these men of God warmed to their subjects, they seemed absolutely to dominate the place and hour; and no one else would have filled the hour as they filled it.

It was the minister's day—his hour.

On the Diamond

With the blood tingling through my veins, I have stood by the side of the baseball diamond as some king of the bat, some marvellous pitcher of the baseball, swift base runner, or some calculating baseman did the proper thing and saved the day for one of the opposing teams.

While the two forces match their skill against each other, one man, more or less efficient, stands out near the center of the diamond and passes judgment on every player of the field. In his hands or, better, his mouth, he holds the key to the whole situation. When two men are "down" and the batter has had two strikes; when a base runner and the ball have both shot down to a base and arrived there at the same time, the most important man at the game is the umpire. His word is law. He decides everything, in spite of everything; and when he says: "You're out!" why, you're out, even if you're in.

The preacher, the teacher, the physician, the wealthy man, the society belle are of no importance when a game is being played—

It is the day of the baseball players and the umpire.

In the Grand Hall

I have seen a great assemblage of sweet-faced and daintily bedecked young women and girls meet in a great reception hall; and in point of loveliness you could not choose between them; but when the orchestra began some entrancing waltz strains, the men, like steel drawn to magnets, went directly to the ladies who knew how to dance.

Beautiful girls, sensible girls, useful girls, sympathetic girls, cultured girls, however pleasing and attractive at other times had to take second place to those who could waltz.

However great the objection to the dance, whatever may be said against it, in the reception hall, when the music calls nimble feet to the floor—

It is the hour of the dancers.

"Dinner Is Served"

But when the dancers' feet are still and the body craves creature comforts; when the table groans under a load of appetizing foods and delicacies; when the welcome words—"Dinner is Served"—are said, verily, the little dancer's feet are forgotten and men think of the capable woman who is queen of the house and efficient director of home affairs—

It is the hour of the housewife.

In the Hour and Article of Death

In the quiet of a sick chamber, a very dear loved one is making a fight against death; and the hearts of loved ones are breaking.

It is of no importance that the town contains the shrewdest lawyer of a continent—nobody needs a lawyer; it's of no consequence that the most spiritual minister of a continent lives next door—nobody wants a minister, he may have to be called later but not now; if his wealth be above computation, nobody sends for the rich man unless it be to ask him to help secure the man who is wanted; the President of the United States might be passing and volunteer his services, but nobody wants him. When the sands of life are running low and breaking hearts prompt loving souls to ask—"Will he live?"—

It is the doctor's hour.

When the Scholar Is Needed

Sometimes the world needs to know the message from the past, but the message is written in the Greek or Latin or Hebrew; sometimes we want to chart the seas, but must know branches of higher mathematics; sometimes we want to baffle disease, but must go to chemistry, to biology, and allied sciences for knowledge—when these times come, when they come, we must seek out the one who is familiar with these abstruse subjects for no one else knows—

It is the hour of the scholar and to him we must appeal. He is master.

The Artisan's Day

An industrial community is being builded. Wooden and brick houses are to be built. Food is to be prepared; buildings to be painted, horses to be shod, roofs to be tinned and tiled, clothes to be made; wagons to be constructed, and so forth and so forth and so forth.

No one can serve the needs of the community as above expressed save carpenters, brickmasons, millers, cooks, painters, blacksmiths, etc. The conjugation of the Greek verb will not meet the demands—

It is the day of the artisan — the skilled laborer.

Why?

But why multiply examples? The law is eternal that "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

I have written this "school boy" essay, thus far, to show that every man's chance comes to him; that today one man holds the stage, but the scene will be shifted tomorrow and a soul of different views and activity will claim our attention; and that we need not be envious of the glory which shines about the head of a fellow traveler, for tomorrow we shall be in the spotlight and the world will give us the praise, if we'll only work and wait.

So much of the world's unhappiness is caused by the selfish spirit which desires to have all of the days for one soul.

The scholar wants his day and the artisan's day; the orator wants the scholar's day; the physician wants the center of the stage on the lawyer's day; the lawyer wants to be the big man on the minister's day; the minister wants to shine on the judge's day and so on.

But it cannot be. Each man has his day and hour in which he is to be glorified. When your time comes, make the most of it. When the other man's time comes, applaud him and be content. So it was intended from the foundation of the world—so it will be.

—ISAAC FISHER.

AGRICULTURAL FACULTY

GIRL WINS TWENTY-FIVE DOLLAR PRIZE SPEAKING TO THE SUBJECT "ALABAMA MUST FEED HERSELF"

A California girl—a colored lassie—Bernice Higbee, stood recently in the Chapel of the Tuskegee Institute and with voice that faltered not, with pleasing manner and deliberate ease told Alabama something of her resources and products; and when the girl was through she had convinced judges, schoolmates, teachers and friends that "Alabama must feed herself."

She was awarded the first prize of Twenty-five Dollars in the Trinity Church (Boston) Oratorical Contest—a contest into which had entered some of the best student speakers of the school.

The winning of the prize by the discussion of a subject which concerns things right at home teaches its own lesson—use what you have. On the front page of the paper, we are printing the picture of the eloquent, convincing little lady; and we are printing her paper below, with the editor's personal hope that she may be, by making the best of herself, one of the jewels and prizes of her race. She can be what she wants to be if she will only will to do so.

ALABAMA MUST FEED HERSELF

By Bernice Higbee, San Francisco, California

In this progressive age, man is being more efficiently educated to acknowledge and appreciate the real value of the farm. There was a time when the farmer was looked upon as inferior to all other men of industry. But this old idea has passed; man has come back to his original place; he has learned that the foundation of all greatness springs from the soil and without it the greatest of nations would fall; so today the highest type of industry is that of agriculture, thus the world has turned "Back to the Farm."

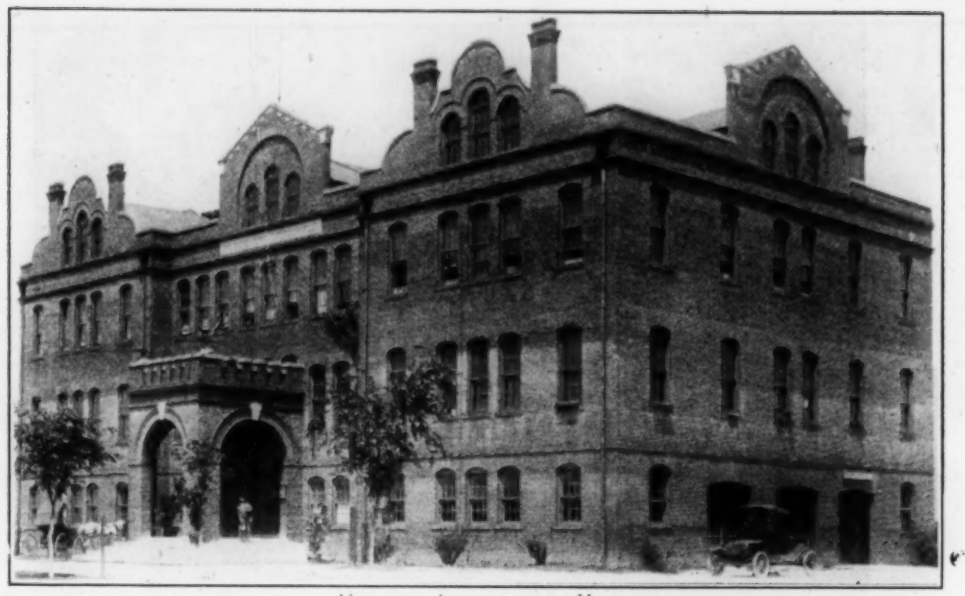
For years and years the Southern States, because of the fertility of the soil, the plentiful rains and general excellent environments for agriculture, have grown and perfected the one crop that no other country in the world has grown in such quantities, and have lived well by it. Now it is diminished. Since so many of the foreign lands are

AGRICULTURAL GRADUATES

living and dying by the sword and by gunpowder, this southern crop has become a contraband; thus checking the industry of the Southern farmer, and in fact, taking from him that which won his fame. This being true, the South must live; Alabama must live, and live independently of other parts of the world, and by this splendid gift from God, the farm land, the entire State can do it. She has grouped herself out independently by States to make good of the hardships and sufferings of the world and they are determined that their States shall live as we are: "Alabama Must and will Feed Herself."

"Alabama Must Feed Herself" because it is possible. She has all the natural environments; she must do it because her main product "cotton" has failed her. When she conquered the boll weevil she could not make trade with Europe. Alabama says that her State must prosper; it is a promising one and intends to stand in the front rank of food stuffs for all the Southland. She must fight a good fight in this battle because her population is large. The gate of plenty is open to her and thus she works to this end. Her farming seasons are long. Welcoming, the glorious sunshine and rainfall bid at the farmers' call, here no land is parched. And for these reasons no human being in this State shall want for even a crumb of bread.

The acre man has gone from existence in this State. We do not tolerate the farmer that raises quantity and not quality, then fails to make a sale for his labor, but we do have the farmer of large dimension, the successful progressive farmer who thinks of the welfare and rise of the State, that plants



Milbank Agricultural Hall

but few kinds of products at the time, and brings in ready sale. The modern Alabama farmer will make a specialty of some one or few specific crops and perfect them, he will sell at the best prices and with his proceeds provide food, fuel and clothing for his family and at the same time build up a bank account accrued from his earnings. Thus it proves that what one farmer can do, others might follow and this will not only influence and inspire his neighborhood and community but will add much to the credit of the State.

The true acre farmer of this State has learned the value of alfalfa. Through study and contact he finds that it is the most precious thing about the farm. It draws nitrogen through the air; it is at the base of food values, of meat, eggs and milk; it enriches the soil, and last but not least it is used in replanting part of last season's crop. Alfalfa is one of Alabama's finest and best products and lends many a helping hand to the State.

Students at Work in the Truck Garden

Here too, we have an other interesting and valuable product, the sweet potato, the Queen of the South. She in all her glory is now to the South what cotton has been. Alabama has all the requirements for growing the sweet potato; and it has proven to be the most substantial, healthful and economical food raised anywhere in the world. It is grown very extensively in Macon County, more in this county than any other in the State.

Mississippi, Louisiana, North and South Carolina are supplying their own wants and needs as to food stuffs, and Alabama is determined that her neighbors shall not beat her. Thus the story runs, Baldwin and Mobile counties are famed for their citrus fruits, the Demopolis sections for alfalfa; Autauga County is winning the name of Home noted Blood lives of Hampshire swine, the best in all America, and numbers of other counties that tell the story for themselves.

This shows us that counties of Alabama are working toward one end, one livelihood, one principle—the farm—so that Alabama shall Feed Herself.

The entire State is aiming at that point, perhaps not altogether, to have an immense farm more than his means will allow but now it is customary that every family have at least a small truck garden, some poultry and swine. It adds to the home, draws the community closer to the State and scatters the seed of life and love for all mankind in the State. Could any man wish that more happiness be derived from his home while he dwells in one like this? Here and there fruit bearing trees about the ground of a well painted cottage, flowers in the front lawn, hedges of blackberry bushes in the back, magnificent fig trees shading

Gathering Peaches in School Orchard

the back porch and a sufficiently large garden containing vegetables the year round. He cares for no clock in the early morning, for his roosters call him to work. And here and there play the pigeons, in yonder pond paddle the snowy ganders, the cow wades the marshes at the foot of the hill, even the swallows and red breast know that there dwells a happy family in a pleasant home.

With the independent home gardens and the loyal help of the community farm, Alabama Will Feed Herself.

EDITOR FISHER IS CALLED TO FISK UNIVERSITY

The readers and friends of The Negro Farmer and Messenger will be interested to know that President Fayette A. McKenzie of Fisk University, has made the following announcement in the current number of the Fisk University News:

"The President is greatly pleased to make another announcement at this time. Next year Mr. Isaac Fisher will enter service here as University Editor. He will assume charge in a general way of all the University publications. So far as funds will permit, he will make the Fisk News an even more valuable magazine than in the past. With the cooperation of the Alumni and all our friends, we shall enter upon a new era of development, of new unity within our own ranks, and, we trust, of increased prestige throughout the country at large. The President joins the whole circle of friends in anticipation of the progress which the coming of Mr. Fisher betokens.

"Mr. Fisher in addition to his editorial duties will devote a part of his time to the better organization of the work activities on the campus. For lack of a business manager, as doubtless all know, the University has failed to secure, in places here and there, that efficiency of service which good education demands. It is an injustice to our students to see less results secured on the campus for given expenditures than good business management off the campus secures. Mr. Fisher will bring economies to the University, and thereby enable the University to do still better things for the students."

The Editor will miss the loyal subscriber-friends who have helped him with the work of trying to make the Negro Farmer a valuable paper.

Students at Work in the Dairy

INAUGURATION SPEECH OF TUSKEGEE'S NEW PRINCIPAL, MAJOR R. R. MOTON

Unfortunately, we have not sufficient space to report the inaugural address of Major Robert R. Moton, Tuskegee's new Principal on May 25, 1916, but we are bringing down just one significant extract from it — an extract which gives a measure of the confidence of the man.

"We Can Do It"

No greater or more serious responsibility was ever placed upon the Negro than is left us here at Tuskegee. The importance of the work and the

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J. W. TIMBERS, Ambler, Pa.

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Co'ored People's Progress

A new race history, soon to be placed on the market at $1.50; the publishers, Austin-Jenkins Co., Washington, D. C., Warder Building, are now placing agents, anyone wanting the agency may secure a fine prospectus free for 15 cents in postage.

gravity of the duty that have been assigned the principal and teachers in the forwarding of this work cannot be over-estimated. Along with this responsibility, we have a rare opportunity, one almost to be envied—an opportunity to help in the solution of a great problem, the Human Race Problem, not merely changing the modes of life and the ideals of a race, but the ideas of other races regarding that race.

While the outlook was never more hopeful, the Negro problem is not yet solved. While there is encouragement in the fact that 70 per cent of the Negro population can read and write, it is not safe to assume that 70 per cent of Negroes are really and truly educated. Our progress in this country has been wonderful, and we have here every reason for rejoicing. Ignorance, shiftlessness, disease, inefficiency, and crime, however, are entirely too prevalent among our people. Color and conduct still count in this question, but let us remember that conduct counts more than color.

General Armstrong, Doctor Washington, and Doctor Frissell, with the influence of such Southern men as Mr. Campbell, have shown us the way out, and how these perplexing questions may be solved. If we follow the course already mapped out at Tuskegee, we shall have the hearty co-operation and support of as distinguished, as wise, as unselfish, and as devoted a body of men as are to be found anywhere in this land. I refer to the Board of Trustees of this Institute. Not only so, but we will have also the cordial help and sympathy of the white and colored people of this State, from His Excellency, Governor Charles Henderson, and Hon. William F. Feagin, State superintendent of education, who honor this oc-

WANTED!

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Baldwin Farms is located nine miles from the Tuskegee Institute, on the main line of the Western Railway of Alabama. It is a splendid agricultural community, and possesses the following

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1. It is on the railroad. (2) The surroundings are healthful. (3) The settlers are intelligent, law-abiding and progressive. (4) Purchasers are given ten years in which to pay for their homes. (5) The community is near the famous Tuskegee Institute.

The following persons may purchase land and homes at Baldwin Farms:
A. Graduates of Tuskegee Institute Agricultural Department. B. Persons who have been influenced by the Tuskegee Institute Farmers' Conference, Short Course in Agriculture, or other agencies

For further information write to Clinton J. Calloway, Manager, Tuskegee Institute, Alabama; or
A. A. Chandler, Baldwin Farms, Route 1, Milstead, Alabama.

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casion by their presence, to the humblest citizen in this county.

The whole country, too, will stand by us, if we are wise, sincere, and unselfish. I again repeat our responsibility is great and our opportunity a tremendous one. We should measure up our responsibilities and opportunities—and WE CAN DO IT.

Not by arrogant self-seeking, not by bluff, sham, or bombast, not by flippant fault-finding, not by shrinking at difficulty, or shirking at duty, not by the cherishing of prejudice against white people or black people, can the work of Tuskegee Institute live and prosper.

In order that Tuskegee shall continue to carry forward the ideas and ideals of its noble founder, in order that it shall not cease to render service to the State and the nation, we must first, every one of us—principal, officers, teachers, graduates, students—use every opportunity and strive in every reasonable way to develop and strengthen between white and black people, North and South, that unselfish co-operation which has characterized the Tuskegee Institute from its very beginning.

Second, we must patiently and persistently, in the spirit of unselfish devotion, follow the methods of education which at Tuskegee is so distinctive, so unique, and so helpful.

Third, we must consecrate and reconsecrate our lives to this work as instruments in God's hands for the training of black men and women for service, in whatever capacity, to our fellow-men.

Fourth, there must be no cantankerousness. We must all work absolutely together.

There is always a way to get a college education, for the boy of average ability. It is always hard for a boy but the struggle brings out the best that there is in him. A boy can get through, if he wants to hard enough; it depends upon the quality of his backbone. It is in most cases a matter of "grit, grace and gumption."—G. H. Glover, Colorado Agricultural College, Fort Collins, Colo.

AN EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL AT THE TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALABAMA

In the catalogue of the Tuskegee Institute for 1914-1915 occurred these words relative to the various divisions of the school's Department of Agriculture:

"The demand for men trained in these divisions has become so great that for the past few years the school has given more attention to the development of these industries than perhaps to any other phase of its work."

The significance of this comment is in the fact that whenever the Tuskegee Institute has discovered a real need for any form of industrial training, it has set itself the task of trying to supply the need. This has direct bearing upon the question as to whether the agricultural school of the Institute has any superior degree of excellence.

Physical Plant

The physical plant of the Institute Agricultural Department is extensive, comprising 2,400 acres of land; the homes of the Division of Care and Management of Horses and Mules; Dairy Husbandry; Swine Raising; Canning; Poultry Raising; Truck Gardening; Veterinary Science; and the Central Building, i. e., Millbank Agricultural Hall, a beautiful brick structure three stories high and located near the center of the farm.

Agricultural Students

About 300 young men and 50 young women take the Agricultural Course at Tuskegee each year. They are taught the important farm crops, how to grow them, fertilizers best adapted to each, and farm accounts, in addition to other allied branches of Agriculture. Special attention is given to training farm

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managers and instructors to take charge of school farms and teach agriculture in elementary schools.

Courses of Study

The Tuskegee Institute offers the following courses in Agriculture:

1. A Preparatory Night School Course.
2. A Four-Years' Course.
3. A Post-Graduate Course. (Two years).
4. A Two-Years' Course in General Farming.
5. A Two-Years' Course in Truck Gardening.
6. A Two-Years' Course in Fruit Growing.
7. A Two-Years' Course in Care and Management of Horses and Mules.
8. A Two-Years' Course in Dairy Husbandry.
9. A Two-Years' Course in Dairying.
10. A Two-Years' Course in Swine Raising.
11. A Two-Years' Course in Veterinary Science.
12. A Two-Years' Course in Poultry Raising.
13. A Two-Years' Course in Canning.

The Preparatory Night School Course is open to all, regardless of how little schooling they have had. This course offers an opportunity to any well deserving young man to get training in agriculture and at the same time pay all his expenses, including entrance fee and board.

The Four-Years' Course is intended for students who have had some academic training and who have completed the Preparatory Course. This course leads to a diploma.

The Post-Graduate Course of Two Years is intended for graduates of high schools, normal schools, and colleges. All of the young men who have taken this course have been placed in good positions, paying splendid salaries.

The Agricultural Faculty

While it is not considered to be in good taste to stress the individual attainments of professors in a given school it surely cannot be out of place to remark that Tuskegee's Agricultural Department, directed by Mr. George R. Bridgeforth of the Massachusettes Agricultural College, contains a number of agricultural experts—men who have made special study of the particular lines of work in which they are engaged.

Truck Gardening

The European War brought home to the people of the South the folly of

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The Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute will sell a limited quantity of Sweet Potatoes between now and March 1st. at 75cts. per bushel.

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growing nothing but cotton; and, as a result, truck gardening has assumed greater importance than ever before.

At Tuskegee, each year, a number of young men, and also young women, receive training in the school truck garden, and in the science of accounting and the marketing of garden produce. Large quantities of vegetables are grown for the students and teachers of the Institute and for the town of Tuskegee.

Fruit Growing

Fruit-growing consists of an orchard of 15,000 trees, twenty acres of strawberries, pears, plums, pecans, figs, and grapes. Thirty young men and women are trained along these lines each year. Our orchard produced more than 4,500 crates of peaches last year; the students received valuable training in gathering, packing, and shipping fruit. Fruits were shipped to the markets of the East and West. Young men who have learned to grow fruit scientifically by spraying, heating, pruning, etc., can always find a ready demand for their services at splendid salaries.

Fruit and Vegetable Canning

The canning of fruits and vegetables is a new industry in the South. We have been losing thousands of dollars by not being able to save the surplus in time of plenty. About thirty students get training in the Canning Factory. We canned 50,000 cans of peaches, potatoes, tomatoes, and other fruits and vegetables last year. More than twice that amount will be canned this year. To help out the campaign of education we put up canned goods for the people around the school, and encourage the formation of canning clubs in the county.

The school's canning factory is well equipped and students who desire to become familiar with canning practice have excellent opportunities to do so.

Animal Husbandry

Dairy Husbandry.—The school maintains a herd of 100 cows which produce milk for the Boarding Department and afford a means of giving definite and practical instruction in dairying, stock judging, care and management of dairy cattle, and feeding for milk production.

Horses and Mules.—There are in this division 170 animals—horses, mules and colts. Students are given instruction in the care and management of horses and mules. The different types of stock, their uses and adaptation, and colt-raising are emphasized. Four registered stallions and one registered Tennessee jack are at the service of the school, farmers, and others in this and adjacent counties who are interested in colt-raising. Practice is given also in feeding and handling for results.

Swine Herd.—The School's herd of 600 or more hogs, including brood sows, stock boars and pigs, afford an opportunity for giving instruction in swine-raising in its various phases. Students are instructed in the care and feeding of hogs, the breed and advantages, and the raising of pork under varying conditions, also in the growing of special crops for hogs and the saving of pork.

Dairying

In the well-equipped Dairy we teach the best methods of caring for milk—skimming, separating, pasteurizing, aerating, clarifying, and testing; also butter-making, ice cream making, and cheese-making. Several rural milk routes have been established in the country, thus affording the farmers opportunity to dispose of their dairy products at reasonable prices. Students are given instruction along all these lines.

Poultry Raising

Over 4,000 fowls are raised yearly on the Poultry Yard. The student is taught how to operate incubators, to test eggs, to determine their fertility, and the care and management of young chicks and other fowl. Only the best and most important breeds and types of fowl are kept.

Veterinary Science

There is an open field in the South for hundreds of men skilled in Veterinary Science. The few colored men who are now practising this profession have all they can do, and their earnings are not exceeded in any other profession. This is an attractive field, and it should appeal more to the high school and college graduate. The Veterinary Division is thoroughly equipped for giving instruction. Besides all the animals of the school, many from all parts of Macon County receive treatment in it.

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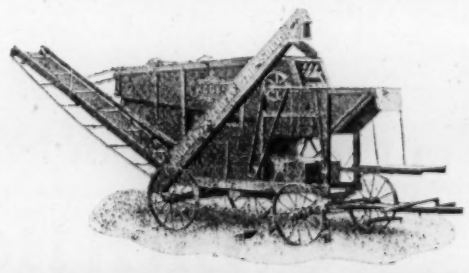

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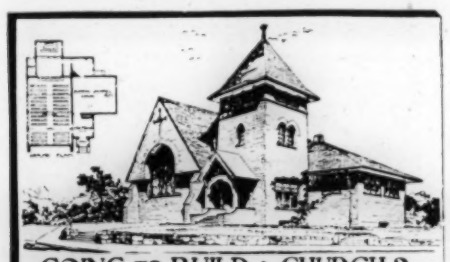

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